



SITREP 1

Vanuatu: TC Lola Response



Figure 1: A woman from North Pentecost preparing her House before the cyclone (Photo: VRCS)

SitRep No.	1	Reporting period	24 October 2023
SitRep Date	26 October 2023	People affected	46,000 people
Disaster categorization		Total people affected	187,557
		Start date of the operation	24 October 2023

Key Humanitarian Priorities

Shelter



Health



Relief distribution

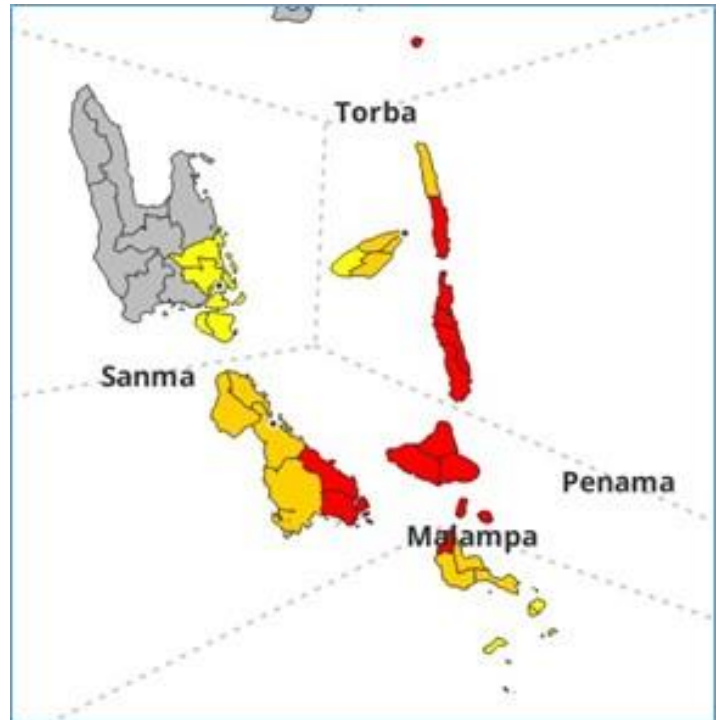


WASH



Main Highlights

- Tropical Cyclone LOLA made landfall on the eastern shores of Maewo and Pentecost islands on the night of 25 October as a category 4 storm with 205 km/HR winds.
- Affected areas are in yellow. Priority 1 areas are in red.
- Very limited communications with the affected areas. Coastal areas are badly hit.
- Today, aerial surveillance is scheduled for assessment in the priority 1 areas.
- Immediate damage assessments will be conducted by area administrators, and they will also conduct immediate distribution.
- Tomorrow Friday (27th), the HELPR1 ship is scheduled to leave from Port Vila to Priority 1 areas with the NDMO assessment team and emergency supplies.
- VRCS will be sending shelter items, initially tarps and possibly shelter tool kits as well for immediate distribution.
- If tool kits are added, technical orientation on how to use them will involve VRCS volunteers who have completed training on shelter kits during TC Judy-Kevin and the inclusion of printed IEC material.
- Stocks to be transported are mainly from VRCS HQ.
- NDMO has completed and signed the National Cyclone Support Plan



Situation Overview

At 6:00 am local time today, Ex-Tropical Cyclone LOLA (990 hPa), currently Tropical Low is located at 17.2 degrees South and 168.9 degrees East. Ex-Tropical Cyclone LOLA is positioned at the top right corner of the square letter I, number 8 (I,8) of the Vanuatu Tropical Cyclone Tracking map. This is about 95 KM southeast of Epi and 70 KM northeast of Efate. Ex-Tropical Cyclone LOLA has moved in a southeast direction at 3 KM/HR (2 knots) in the past 3 hours.

The central pressure of the system is estimated at 990 hPa. Winds close to the centre are estimated at 75 KM/HR (40 knots), gusting up to 105KM/HR (55KTS) within 23 Nautical miles from the center of the system, and are expected to continue to affect some of the Islands of SHEFA in the next 24 hours.

Damaging gale force wind of 75KM/HR with gusts up to 105KM/HR within 100 nautical miles from the center expected are also no longer significant threats to the islands.

Possible Isolated showers and thunder are expected over parts of Central and Southern islands today.

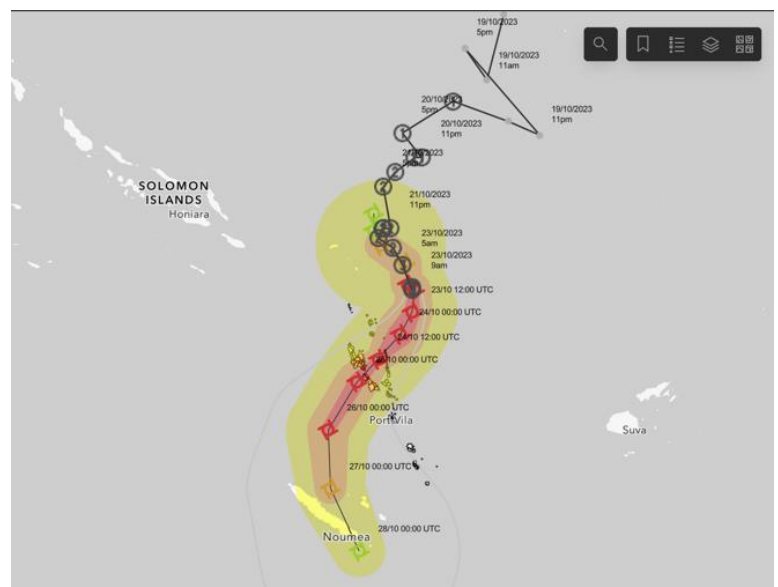


Figure 2: Current Cyclone Track from UN Satellites

Coordination

The cluster system has been activated in Vanuatu to coordinate the humanitarian response. The humanitarian community works through this national cluster system. Clusters are led by a Line Ministry and co-led by a humanitarian agency. Overall coordination lies with the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). To organize an emergency response, Vanuatu's government has convened an inter-agency briefing with officials from the National Disaster Management Authority. The Most affected areas being prioritized areas yellow and Red. VRCS, as co-lead of the Shelter Cluster to support government lead agency National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) in the response of TC Lola.

Operational Strategy

The overall objective of the immediate humanitarian response in the event of an emergency/disasters is to mitigate suffering of the most affected population through provision of Non-Food Items (NFIs) and other relevant interventions. In a few days' time, the assessment team will conduct rapid technical assessments that will last for 3-4 days. The operation includes all clusters such as: Shelter, WASH, Health, Logistics, Gender and Protection, Displacement and Communication.

Sectors of intervention key highlights



Shelter

Needs

- 75% of building/houses were destroyed in priority one areas and 50% buildings and houses destroyed and damaged in priority two areas.
- Affected people needed urgent support in emergency shelter.
- Shelter/tarpaulins considered to be the priority needs.



Livelihoods and basic needs

Needs

- Food Shortage is likely within the next few days.
- Food distribution should be considered a priority.
- Livelihood in most affected areas were partly affected.



HEALTH & WASH

Needs

- Water shortages and unsafe drinking water in most affected areas.
- 75% plus toilets are destroyed and advised to be build and used accordingly.
- Health awareness to commence immediately.
- Possibility of spread of water borne diseases.



PGI

Needs

- Both men and women, children and old age are being affected.
- Females may not feel safe sharing toilets and bath rooms with male and living together in an evacuation center.



Environmental Sustainability

Needs

- Most of the Vegetation on Priority area 1 and 2 are damaged.
- Gardens and fruit trees of affected communities damaged.

Cross-cutting/Support services key highlights

Communications

Response

- Communication towers for both Vodafone and Digicel Vanuatu were impacted by strong winds. After the cyclones, telecommunication was barely existent which caused a major delay in information relay.
- Participating in relevant clusters to ensure coordination of human and material assets.
- VRCS SG and DM Coordinator meeting and communicating with IFRC and is frequently to coordinate and execute plans of actions.

Logistics

Response

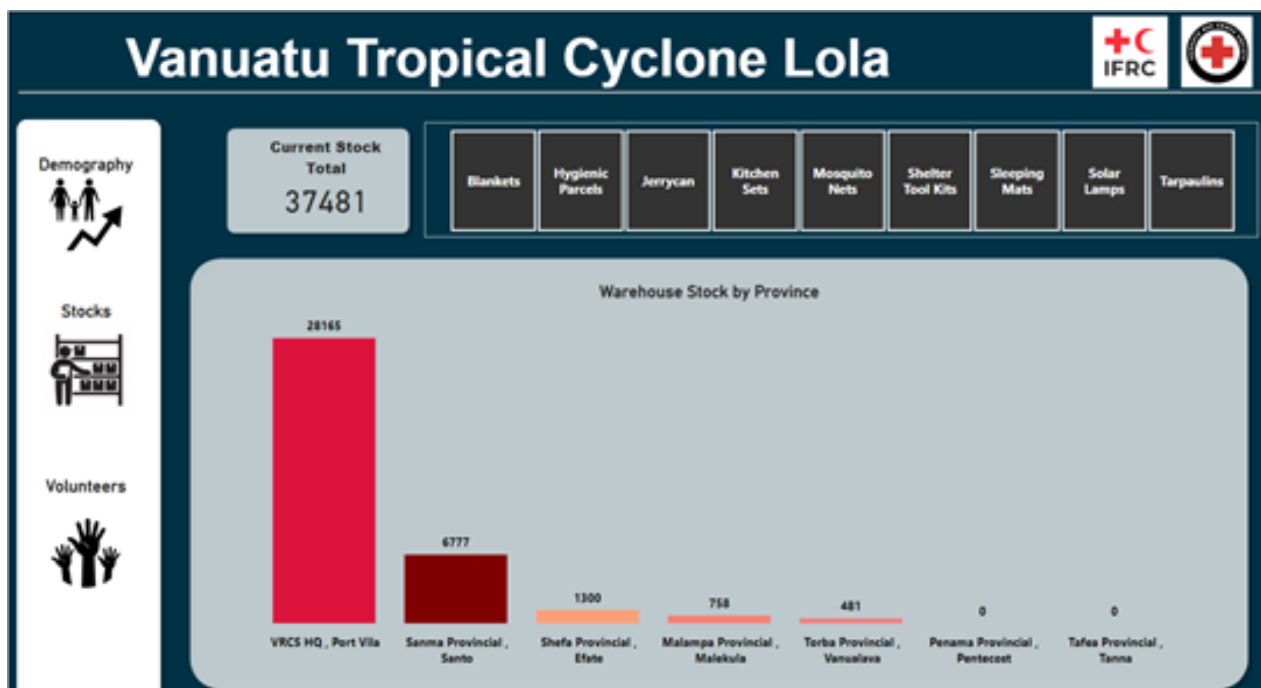


Figure 3: Shows the current VRCS stock available in country per province

- Communication updates hampered by the communication and logistics issues accessing remote islands.
- VRCS Logistics Team coordinated and communications of NFI transportations and logistics from warehouses to the affected communities affected.
- Forming assessment teams who will travel with the ship to conduct rapid assessment and the planning of the distribution of relief items at respective islands.
- Completed the survey of current stocks on hand and prepared them for shipment to the affected areas.
- Mobilize volunteers both at Port Vila headquarters and in the islands of Sanma, Torba, and Penama.
- Exploring possibility of arranging separate transport to deliver necessary relief items and volunteers to the affected areas.
- Moving stocks from warehouses to docks for loading to ship for transit to Malampa and Pentecostal Islands.

IFRC

Response

- IFRC CCD Suva continue to monitor the situation through ongoing dialogue with VRCS, NDMO, Asia Pacific Regional Office and other partnering agencies and organizations bilaterally and in cluster meetings.
- Responding to numerous media requests for updates on current situation and plans going forth.
- Developing plans and next steps to support VRCS in relief operations.
- Taking preliminary steps and looking at channels to mobilize resources.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

Vanuatu Red Cross Society

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